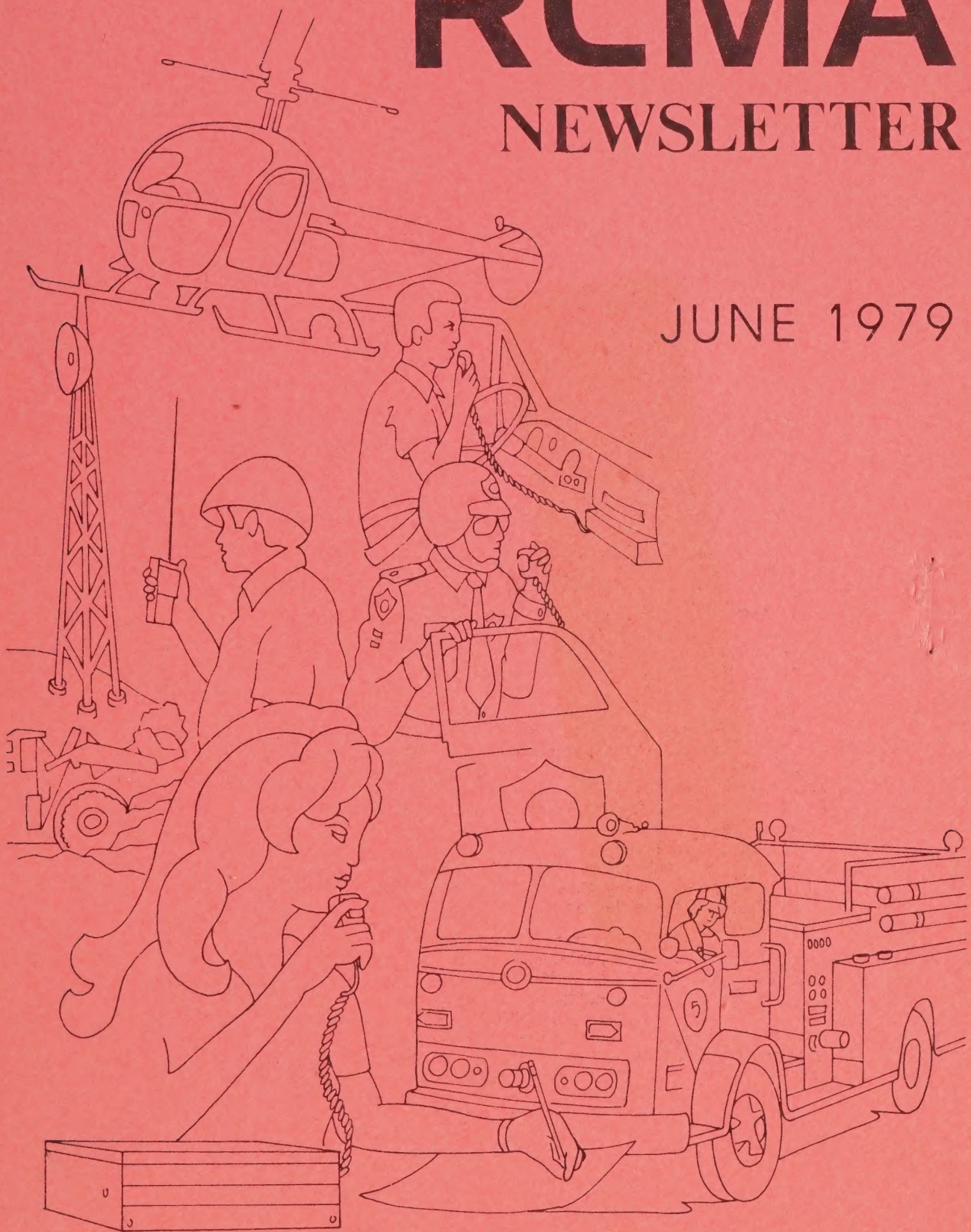
RCMA
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1979



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ANARC REPRESENTATIVES
Iden Rogers (CA-RI-001)
Jerry Short (CA-OR-002)
Don Jones (CA-OR-014)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. All club business, unless otherwise noted, must be addressed to: RCMA, P.O. Box 4563, Anaheim, CA 92803. This includes matters that relate to renewals, changes of address, Newsletter delivery problems, etc.
2. Input to the RCMA Newsletter must be mailed to the proper editors whose addresses are included in the column headings. If in doubt or if no particular column seems to be appropriate, send it to: RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514. Please do not include matters of club business.
3. RCMA Newsletter back issues (reprints) - For information and prices send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514.
4. To forward a letter to a specific RCMA member whose address you do not know, put your message to that person in a stamped envelope with your return address in the upper left corner. Put this and your instructions for remailing in another envelope and mail to: RCMA, P.O. Box 408, Earp, CA 92242.
5. It would be appreciated if you would include your RCMA membership number with all correspondence to the Newsletter Editors or to Headquarters.
6. If you require a reply when writing to RCMA Headquarters or one of the Editors you MUST include a self-addressed stamped envelope.
7. Please write only on one side of the paper.
8. Please do not combine in one letter items that should go to different addresses.
9. If you are inclined to type what you submit to the Newsletter, please use a 6-1/4 inch column width with 1-1/8 inch margins on each side and single space. Doing this may save an editor from having to retype the material. Please do not use "*script*" type.

The RCMA Newsletter is published monthly by the members of the RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 4563, Anaheim, CA 92803. Subscription rate/membership fee is $8.00 per year for U.S. residents, $10.35 for Canadian residents, and $18.00 for overseas residents. (Dues subject to change.) Information contained herein is primarily obtained from members and does not necessarily present the position or reflect the opinion of the RCMA as a whole. Reproduction of any material in this Newsletter is authorized providing the source (RCMA) and the address are given (this excludes direct photocopying).

JUNE 1979 ISSUE NO. 41A

** Calendar **

MONTH DATE	DAY TIME	SCHEDULED	ORGANIZATION LOCATION
JUNE 15	FRI. 8:00 PM	MONTHLY 3rd FRI.	RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING ASSN. MERCURY SAVINGS & LOAN VALLEY VIEW ST./LINCOLN AVE., BUENA PARK, CA

ABC cancelled the tour of their facility previously scheduled for June 15. Jerry Duro, Regency Representative, who was scheduled to speak at the May 18th meeting, will probably be our speaker at this meeting and present a new model by Regency.

JULY 1	SUN. 1:00 PM	MONTHLY 1st SUN.	RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING ASSN. SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, SKIP SANDERS' HOME 2129 CROWNHILL RD., SAN DIEGO, CA
JULY 20	FRI. 8:00 PM	MONTHLY 3rd FRI.	RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MONITORING ASSN. MERCURY SAVINGS & LOAN VALLEY VIEW ST./LINCOLN AVE., BUENA PARK, CA

Ron Hamlet, President of Southern California REACT Council and President of San Gabriel Valley REACT, will give a talk on GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service - formerly Class A-CB) and will demonstrate various types of equipment used on this service.

FLORIDA MEETING

This letter concerns the development of a Florida Chapter of the RCMA and its recent activities.

On May 5, we held our first formal meeting in Stuart, Florida and much was accomplished. Several guest speakers were present, including a law enforcement officer from Palm Beach County, who gave an in-depth presentation on the Palm Beach SO radio system and its data communications feature. Another speaker spoke about civil defense planning in Florida. Additional talks were given on the radio systems for the Department of Corrections, Public Service Commission, Broward SO, and other agencies within Florida. Included in the presentation period were frequency changes in the FHP radio system, and its experimental use of data terminals in patrol vehicles.

In addition to speeches, numerous handouts were provided which contained information on frequency changes, scrambling systems, and other useful facts of the hobby.

Finally, a board of directors was elected, and it was decided to hold a board meeting near Disneyworld during June. The next general membership meeting will probably be held in early July, somewhere in Southeast Florida.

Bob Mc Govern (BM)
John Pierce (BM)

Bob Mc Govern CA YO 1
John Pierce FL 1

(Editor's comment: Congratulations! Organizing meetings and chapters can take some work and coordinating but it looks like you are well on your way. It would be appropriate if the RCMA Newsletter's calendar section is used to serve as a meeting notice for your chapter and for this to be most effective perhaps your meetings should be timed appropriately with the Newsletter arrival in your area. Also, it would be nice to have a write-up of each of your meetings as they take place. IBR)

MINUTES OF THE R.C.M.A. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MAY 1979 MEETING.

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M., May 4, 1979, by Jerry Short, Vice President (Acting President). The meeting was held at the home of Bob Leef, Second Vice President, in Corona, California.

Members of the Board present were:
Jerry Short, Vice President (CA-OR-002)
Bob Leef, Second Vice President (CA-OR-033)
Noel Robertson, Secretary (CA-LA-083)

Guests present were:
Iden Rogers, Newsletter Editor and ANARC Representative (CA-RI-001)
Linda Rogers (CA-RI-022)

Items of business discussed were:

1. Acceptance of the resignation letters from Danny McLean, President (CA-OR-004) and Karl Pagel, Treasurer (CA-OR-022).
2. After a thorough discussion, the Board unanimously appointed the following members to fill the following positions, for the balance of the current term for Officers of R.C.M.A.:
   A. Jerry Short, President (CA-OR-002)
   B. Bob Leef, First Vice President (CA-OR-033) (Title changed from Vice President to First Vice President)
   C. Iden Rogers, Second Vice President (CA-RI-001)
   D. Linda Rogers, Treasurer (CA-RI-022)
3. Noel Robertson, who was elected Secretary, will continue in that position, and Iden Rogers will continue to be the Editor of the "Newsletter" and ANARC Representative.
4. Appointed the Secretary to be responsible for distribution of mail received at the Anaheim Post Office box to the proper Officer or proper Editor.
5. Appointed the President and the First Vice President to be the sole persons responsible for opening the Anaheim Post Office box, and forwarding all mail to the Secretary, unopened.
6. Appointed the following Officers to have signing authority of the R.C.M.A. checking account, with the stipulation that all checks must be signed by two (2) of the three (3) authorized signers:
   A. President
   B. First Vice President
   C. Treasurer
7. Requested that the Secretary prepare new signature cards for the bank checking account, and a letter to the Postmaster advising of the change in the persons responsible for opening the Anaheim box, i.e. President and First Vice President.
8. Requested that the Secretary forward all new membership applications and checks, and all renewal checks to the Treasurer for processing as follows:
   A. New memberships - deposit check and send membership application to George Pond (CA-SB-008) for membership number and label processing.
   B. Renewals - deposit check and advise George Pond of renewal.
9. Detailed minutes of this Board meeting will be published in the June 1979 issue of the "Newsletter", however, starting with the July issue, a summary of the Board and General Membership minutes will be published in the "Newsletter". Any member who would like a detailed copy of either meeting can receive one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope and one extra First Class postage stamp to the Secretary, thru the Anaheim Post Office box.

10. The Treasurer will provide a monthly condensed report to the "Newsletter", which will be published. Any member who would like a detailed report can obtain one by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope and one extra First Class postage stamp to the Treasurer, R.C.M.A., Post Office Box 4693, Riverside, California 92514.
11. Future editions of the "Membership Directory" will be discontinued, but the "RCMA Newsletter" "CONTACT" column can be used by members to accomplish much the same purpose.
12. The Treasurer was requested to establish, and maintain a master expense log for the Board. Each Board member will submit a detailed listing, monthly, of all expenses that apply to R.C.M.A.
13. The First Vice President was requested to contact the Postmaster to determine the best method of mailing the Newsletter. At the present time we are paying 8.4¢ per item, for "bulk rate". He will also determine the proper wording for "forwarding and return postage guaranteed" and address correction for requests.
14. The Second Vice President was requested to establish and maintain a library of back issues of the "Newsletter, where possible, and to handle requests for back issues. The back issues (or photo-copies thereof) will be sold only in six month lots and priced according to the total number of pages in each lot. Requests for back issues will be sent to the Riverside, CA RCMA P.O. Box.
15. Sample copies of a current RCMA Newsletter will be available from the RCMA Anaheim, CA address for three mint U.S. First Class postage stamps or three I.R.C.'s.
16. The Board requested that the Secretary write to Gordon West (CA-OR-017), Editor of C.B. Magazine, thanking him and authorizing him to be allowed to reprint any articles from the "Newsletter" in his publication, subject to obtaining the permission of the author, and credit given to R.C.M.A.
17. The President announced that Bryan Hunnell (CA-OR-097) and Mike Musick (CA-LA-008) were appointed to a committee to study and determine recommendations for an advertising policy, if any, for R.C.M.A.
18. The Secretary announced that over 320 requests for information and membership applications had been received and processed during the past month. The requests were received from 36 States, Canada and one from Belfast, N. Ireland, and included 13 from women. 81% of the requests were received from outside Calif., and most made mention of the fact that they had heard of R.C.M.A. in "Police Call", of which the Editor is Gene Hughes (CA-LA-006). The Board expressed their thanks to Mr. Hughes for his efforts in expanding the membership of R.C.M.A.
19. Future Board meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, at 7 P.M., at a selected location.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Short, President, at 10:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel Robertson

Noel Robertson
Secretary

Members who live in or around Anaheim who would like to get together for interesting conversation while collating, stapling and folding the Newsletter after it comes back from the printer, please contact Jerry at 772-1259 or drop by the Euclid Branch of the Anaheim Library at 6:00 PM on July 11, 1979. Any assistance would be appreciated.

THE editor's column

Iden Rogers, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514

A FEATHER IN RCMA's HAT

We are fortunate indeed to have an author and expert of note as an RCMA special interest editor.

Bob Grove, who is the editor of the RCMA Newsletter's new "Federal Gov't" and "Military" columns, is certainly no newcomer to radio monitoring. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Bob got his ham radio license at 13. But he has always been more interested in listening than talking on the air. Most members know that Bob was the author of the 1972 and 1976 editions of the popular Confidential Frequency List. Behind The Dial, published by 73 Magazine, is also Bob's. A brand new book, Communications Monitoring and Communications Projects, is scheduled for a late summer release from Hayden.

We just learned that Bob has been selected to write a regular monthly column on radio monitoring for CB Magazine. That publication has taken a giant leap forward, and starting in the fall will feature articles directed toward other aspects of hobby radio besides CB.

Several additional articles from Bob are due to appear in Popular Electronics, including one on converting a TV antenna to a scanner beam.

Bob's professional career has been quite colorful. He has been a science lecturer, TV personality, radio announcer, teacher, and museum and planetarium director. He now lives with his family in a secluded mountain home in western North Carolina, from which he serves as a communications consultant and technical writer.

Bob maintains an exhaustive file of frequencies from "DC to daylight". He is considering putting them into computer memory on his TRS-80 level II for more rapid editing, and would welcome program ideas.

Needless to say, he is surrounded by receiving equipment of all kinds, and enjoys the enviable privilege of reviewing new scanners and receivers as they are released by manufacturers.

RCMA certainly welcomes Bob to the growing RCMA Newsletter editorial staff.

KARL PAGEL (CA-OR-022), who resigned last month from the position of RCMA Treasurer, worked hard for RCMA and, in addition to his Treasurer's duties, helped the club out when no one else seemed to be available. This is becoming more apparent as the tasks he has been doing are now coming to light.

A FAVOR FROM MEMBERS IS REQUESTED---Karl has been picking up the mail at the club's Anaheim, CA P.O. Box. This task has now been taken over by another person. A portion of the RCMA mail is addressed to "Karl Pagel" and falls into two categories, 1) club business that is addressed to his attention and 2) personal mail to Karl. Would members kindly discontinue addressing club business mail to Karl and for personal mail please make prompt new arrangements with Karl. If making such new arrangements requires the use of the Anaheim P.O. Box, you must mark the envelope "Personal-Not Club Business".

From DAN (ND-001): I deeply appreciate the efforts it takes to put the monthly magazine together each month. It takes a lot of work. I believe that someday it will be popular to the general public and will justify public newsstand sales, if scanner-ing gets to be as popular as I feel it will become. I would like to see the Newsletter cover shortwave or the spectrum from below the broadcast band, pass the broadcast band, start again at 1700 KHz and cover the spectrum as high as it goes, but again passing commercial FM broadcast and TV. Thanks, keep up the good work.

(Editor's response: Thanks for the compliments. A "pat on the back" is

THE editor's column (continued)

always appreciated. --- Someday someone may put out a scanner magazine but it is intended that the RCMA Newsletter will remain a non-profit publication for RCMA members. --- For frequencies below 30 MHz there are active, well supported clubs already in existence. Refer to the ANARC section in this issue and send for the ANARC list of clubs. --- At one time some feelers were put out to see if RCMA members wanted to include two-way communications frequencies and information below 30 MHz in the Newsletter. Most members responding were not in favor of it.)

From an East Coast member: You have as yet made no effort to make this club interesting to non-California members, an act I think is not too likely to take place.

(Editor's response: The RCMA started in Southern California as a club for monitor listeners in Southern California with no real plans to expand beyond our 5 or 6 original county coverage. The RCMA information letters have stated clearly, I believe, that "most members and activities are located in Southern California but members from other states are welcome to join" or something to that effect. As time progressed more and more people started to join from other states. The club had the beginnings of being a national club but was still really Southern California oriented. It is quite understandable that members outside California desired more from RCMA than they were getting. We are a young club (founded in May 1975) and have gone from 6 members to almost 700 members, so the club must be doing something right. Admittedly, the club has been in transition from a local club to a national club and with it there have been inequities and growing pains. You will find that starting with the May Newsletter there is a clear indication that the club is making an obvious commitment to attain the goal of not only fairly and equally representing members from all states coast to coast but members in Canada as well. Additionally, we have already commenced with several special interest columns and others will be started when there is sufficient member interest and space is available.

From BILL (IL-020):

As a new member of RCMA I would like to comment on the statements made by NY-006 and AZ-003 concerning the publication of federal government law enforcement frequencies such as the FBI or DEA. Contrary to the statements made by these two gentlemen, federal law enforcement frequencies are not "unclassified" and are not made available to the general public by the federal government.

Under the Freedom of Information Act any citizen may acquire from the Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) a computer print out of "unclassified" frequencies. This information however is provided at the citizen's expense. Currently there are three basic types of information "unclassified", "classified" and "secret". Federal law enforcement frequencies are considered as "classified" or "secret" information by the OTP. With this in mind, I feel it is inappropriate for RCMA to publish this type of information in their newsletters unless it is available under the Freedom of Information Act.

My personal opinion is that when classified or secret information is indiscriminately published, it provides yet another reason for federal law enforcement agencies to request funds for a change over to a digital or analogue scrambling system. Motorola is already attempting to capitalize on this approach by depicting radio monitors as sinister people in an attempt to promote their new digital communications equipment. If we cannot limit our publication of classified or secret federal frequency information we will soon find that we ourselves and not others have created the justification for the switch from clear voice to secure voice. Once this switch is made RCMA can forget about any form of monitoring at all in these federal areas.

I am in no way against the exchange of information of this type, however, I feel it should be done on a one-to-one basis between members

THE editor's column (continued)
either verbally or in letter form and not by publication of frequency lists in the newsletter. By refraining from publishing "classified" or "secret" federal information, we can show that we are a responsible organization and one which is not motivated by profit as are certain persons who publish such information for direct sale to the public.

From MICHAEL (CA-OR-005):

There has been a recent revival of the same old argument to put information on U.S. law enforcement into our Newsletter. This is stupid! .....Some of us have worked years in compiling this data which we all agree is a much more difficult task than monitoring Public Safety. If you can find the frequencies, call signs, transmitter locations, unit and station identifiers, etc. on your own, fine. Keep it to yourself unless someone can trade you good, verified data with no tricks attached. But don't publicize it, especially in these pages!.....

The more we talk about federal frequency information, the more agencies will switch to inaccessible frequencies, alternate modes of transmission (scramblers, telephones, data or digital voice protection), or create restrictive laws either on listening to or use of monitors. It is already happening now.

One major agency has gone to non-uniform unit identification (none of us know who is doing what anymore), three others have ordered or gone to elaborate scrambling or voice-secure systems, two have changed frequencies, and several are borrowing radios from less illustrious, non-law enforcement departments (USDA, APHIS, DOT, BLR, USPS, BSFW, etc.). We are a threat to them--we shouldn't be.

Publishing or publicly discussing what they feel is security information can only increase that threat and give all of us a lot of short-lived government monitoring and then...what???

(Editor's Note: Again I state that, in my opinion, not only would we be hurting ourselves as monitor listeners to print these frequencies but it is our responsibility not to publish them because it would be a disservice to certain federal entities, independent of what their reaction to us might be.)

From WALTER (CT-): I have monitored police, forestry and fire frequencies since 1940. Then, operated the first FM mobile system in the world (Connecticut State Police). Served as Connecticut State Police radio frequency coordinator (Frequency Advisory Committee APCO) from 1942 to 1960. In other words, I have been monitoring all kinds of assorted emergency service communications frequencies on a professional basis for the 20 years between 1940 and 1960, and as a hobby from 1960 to the present time. It was kind of tough until SCANNERS came along. My geographical location and country area, being some 60 miles from the New York metropolitan area, does limit my choice of stations to monitor. I have been hearing some police and fire departments via skip from the L.A. West Coast area in the 30 to 40 MHz band (when it is noon time on the west coast).

(Editor's response: Welcome aboard, we hope that RCMA will help to increase your monitoring pleasures. If you should ever want to write articles on the historical aspects of public safety radio, we would welcome them. IBR)

From MIKE REDMAN (MO-002): "I'm willing to pay a few bucks more each month rather than see the newsletter cut back in style or length. I think the bulk mailing rate should be retained. I personally have had no difficulty receiving it. As a suggestion, ship the membership information to the new regional editors and have them type the rosters, then, after forwarding, the Newsletter Editors can assemble them and have them reproduced. I, myself, would discourage advertisements.

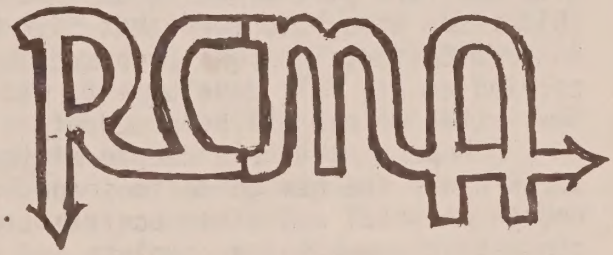
(Editor's response: Your comments are appreciated. Opinions and

THE editor's column (continued)
comments from members do assist the RCMA Board Members in making decisions that affect the club. Your idea of preparing membership directories at a regional level is certainly a possibility but I believe it should not be a requirement of regional editors to undertake this job. They should be able to make membership directories for their regions if they want to, however. Also, consider the new "CONTACT" column as a means to accomplish a similar purpose. If a member wishes to be contacted by other members regarding a certain subject related to monitoring he can express this in the CONTACT column. Interested members in turn will contact him directly, therefore each member has the full potential to be contacted by every other member who is interested in responding. A membership directory really cannot promote contacts much more effectively than this. On the other hand, the directory can provide interesting reading for some and it does allow a member to see what receivers and antennas are most popular.

From TONY (NJ-005): Increase dues for further expansion, yes! --- I object to changing graphics on cover. Newsletter is for members, isn't it? We all know what it means. We should show some artistic tastes --- No need for monitor beams. Existing ham beams just fine. --- Regarding bulk mailing: I have no problems receiving Newsletter now. I wouldn't want to pay an extra 2 bucks for 1st class.

(Editor's comment: Tony, your quick, concise response was welcomed and appreciated. Well, we did change the "RCMA". I'm not sure everyone could read it because some would write in saying they saw something in the "RCM" or in the "RCMA". It is neither, it is the RCMA NEWSLETTER. I hope most will agree that the new graphics are an improvement.)

From HAROLD (OH-): I was pleasantly surprised with my first issue of the RCMA Newsletter. It contains much info for this retired art teacher. Sitting in my Lazy-Boy chair I sketched a "readable" "RCMA" for the cover of the Newsletter. You can do what you want to with it.



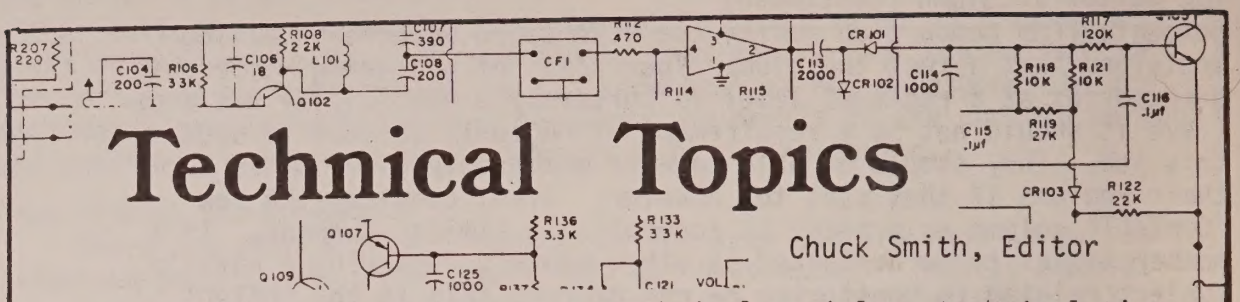
(Editor's response: Thank you for your comments, interest and proposed lettering. Comments anyone?)

From JOHN (MA-005): I have just received my May Newsletter and find the new format and heading pages excellent.

From BILL (AR-001): I was thrilled with the new format of the May issue of RCMA. The variety of all the new columns should give every member a continuing interest. My favorite are the Federal Gov't. and Military columns because it is very hard to find publications with this information.

The California personalized license plate "SCANNER" belongs to RCMA member Glenn (CA-SM-002) in San Mateo.

This issue has 32 pages. It is the largest issue ever for the RCMA NEWSLETTER. The odds are high that the size of the Newsletter will continue increasing, especially after each new column gets into full swing. Our membership is increasing at a healthy rate which will mean that there will be more members to send in material to the Newsletter. The eventual limit to the size of the Newsletter will be determined by our financial ability to pay the expenses, primarily printing. To expand beyond this point would require a dues increase. I like to think ahead. ARE YOU, THE MEMBERS, WILLING TO HAVE YOUR DUES RAISED AGAIN TO PERHAPS $10 IN A FEW MONTHS IF IT IS NECESSARY TO ALLOW FOR NEWSLETTER EXPANSION? Please reply to RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514.



Technical Topics

Chuck Smith, Editor

Send all equipment reviews, technical articles, technical tips and questions on such subjects as receivers, antennas, preamps, accessory equipment, repeaters, links, tones, scramblers, non-voice data transmissions or even computer applications for monitoring to: Chuck Smith, 4901 Heil Ave. #3C Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

I must apologize for my absence from the last couple of issues of the Newsletter, but business commitments sent me to Portland, Oregon for a couple of weeks of computer programming work, and when I returned I was to learn of the regrettable retirement of our previous Newsletter Editor, Don Jones. I'm sure I speak for many of our members when I say that he and his efforts on behalf of the Newsletter will be sorely missed, and I wish him much luck with his new business endeavors in the Santa Barbara area.

However, as they often do, this cloud also has a silver lining. Filling Don's shoes, at least temporarily, will be the very capable feet of Iden Rogers, widely known among the RCMA membership at large for his high level of involvement with the monitoring hobby and well reknowned among those of us who have directly worked with him as a clear-thinking organizer with the rare gift of being able to motivate people and get things done. (Did I say enough to earn that five bucks, Iden??) All kidding aside, as interim Editor, Iden has proposed the multiple editor format, which if carried to its full development, will result in a greatly improved Newsletter we can all be proud of.

I hope in the next couple of issues to be able to bring myself up to speed under the new guidelines and hopefully by then I will be receiving enough material and other contributions from the general membership to consistently put out a complete and hopefully interesting column each month.

Since the inception of Iden's new multiple-editor plan, some material has been trickling in direct to my home address, some still via the Anaheim P.O. Box. Although I am grateful for every card and letter, it will still be a while before I am organized enough and have the proper procedures and disciplines established to make full use of this material. Therefore, I ask that you please not become discouraged or put off because you don't see your question answered in the very next Newsletter. I will do my best to get around to all of the questions that I can, hopefully before anyone decides to burn me in effigy. With your kind indulgence I will eventually streamline what is now my own very disorganized operation.

800 MHZ Equipment

From TONY (NJ-005): There is loads of 800 MHZ two-way activity in NYC/Metro area. Does anybody have 800 MHZ equipment or know where to get it?

Well Tony, this is a very good question, and one that will probably be getting asked more and more as activity in that portion of the spectrum increases. 800 MHz equipment has several advantages that make it ideal for the two-way radio user, such as small physical size of the antenna, lessened power requirements, freedom from skip type interference, and so on. However, the nature of the higher frequencies make it more difficult (and therefore more expensive) to construct receiving equipment. For example, at these high frequencies, which actually border on the area known as microwaves, it is virtually impossible to construct a tuned circuit using conventional capacitors and inductors, since the required values are so small. Therefore, it becomes necessary to resort to more esoteric

techniques, such as stripline or helical filters, all of which cost a great deal more than the approach taken by the scanner manufacturers today. In addition, your losses at these frequencies have increased to the point that you can no longer utilize the familiar types of coaxial cable or connectors. By the time your signal ran through a length of RG-8/U, for instance, there wouldn't be enough left for even the best receiver to work with. This necessitates the use of semi-rigid low-loss transmission lines, which are both hard to work with and very expensive. The standard Motorola-type auto radio connector used for the antenna jack would have to be replaced with a BNC, or preferably, one of the "N" type connectors. I'm not trying to say that this makes it impossible, but what I am saying is that these problems are barriers which the manufacturers must overcome before they can make the scanners at a reasonable cost, and no manufacturer is going to make a product unless he is absolutely confident that the market is right for his product at the price that he will have to charge.

An interesting alternative may be converters, which would take the 800 MHZ signal and convert it down so that it may be received on a receiver in the 450 MHZ area of the spectrum. This is a reasonable idea, but does not eliminate the problem of the expensive feedline and connectors which would be required. It would also require that microwave receiving techniques be used in the construction of the converter front end. I would estimate that the cost of a suitable converter capable of minimally acceptable performance would today be approximately that of a brand-new Bearcat 250, at the least! I believe, however, that before a manufacturer will start production of a complete 800 MHZ scanner, that converters will appear on the market as a test of the interest in this area.

The "Lock-Up Syndrome"

Tom (PA-011) wrote a letter and asked about the effect one scanner often has on another when operating physically close together. I hope that the following explanation will shed some light on this phenomenon for those of you who have wondered about the causes.

Most scanner receivers, whether they be crystal-controlled or synthesized, are basically superheterodyne receivers, which in a nutshell means that the incoming signal is converted, or "heterodyned" down to another frequency where it can be more easily amplified. To accomplish this conversion process, which by the way, occurs more than once in most monitor receivers, another signal source is required to mix with the incoming signal. In a crystal radio, this signal is provided by a crystal-controlled oscillator, and in the synthesized models, it comes from the frequency synthesizer. The signals from these oscillators will radiate out for some small distance from the receiver itself, and can under some circumstances, be detected by other receivers in the immediate vicinity. For example, a scanner tuned to 150.000 MHZ, and utilizing high-side injection and a first I.F. frequency of 10.7 MHZ, will have a local oscillator operating at a frequency of 160.700 MHZ. This small signal will easily be received by another scanner tuned to this frequency, and if there is traffic on 150.000 MHZ which keeps the first scanner on that channel, the second scanner will be hung up on 160.700. In some cases, the interlocking effect is mutual, and one scanner will hang up another permanently. The amount of this incidental radiation is controlled and regulated by Part 15 of the FCC Regulations regarding spurious emissions from radio receivers, but the allowable amount is more than enough to cause serious difficulties when multiple scanners are involved. Unfortunately, there is very little that can be done about this, except to separate the scanners as far as possible. Keeping the covers on the units and having all of the screws attached firmly will help, because this provides a more RF tight case environment and prevents the signals from leaking directly out. They must then fight their way back through the RF amplifier circuits and be radiated from the antenna or some other exposed circuitry. In general, then, try to keep the offending radios as physically far apart as you can and keep the cases on them, and you will be doing as much as you can to minimize this type of interference problem.

Technical Topics (continued)

Equipment Modifications

Several members have written in requesting information on ways to make certain modifications to their monitor receivers. While this type of work is well within my capabilities, I have difficulty making practical suggestions without the aid of a schematic diagram. Without these aids, I would have to give the answers in a very general way and leave the implementation of my suggestion to the scanner owner. Rather than do this, I am going to attempt to gather together schematic diagrams and service information on as many types of scanner receivers as I can, so that when a request is made for information regarding a possible modification, I can be of the most assistance.

So far I have been asked for modifications which will affect the audio response of the receiver, change the scanning rate, or match impedance to a tape recorder. All of these modifications are very simple to make, but I will postpone answers to these until I can obtain the data that I require. Please be patient with me in the interim.

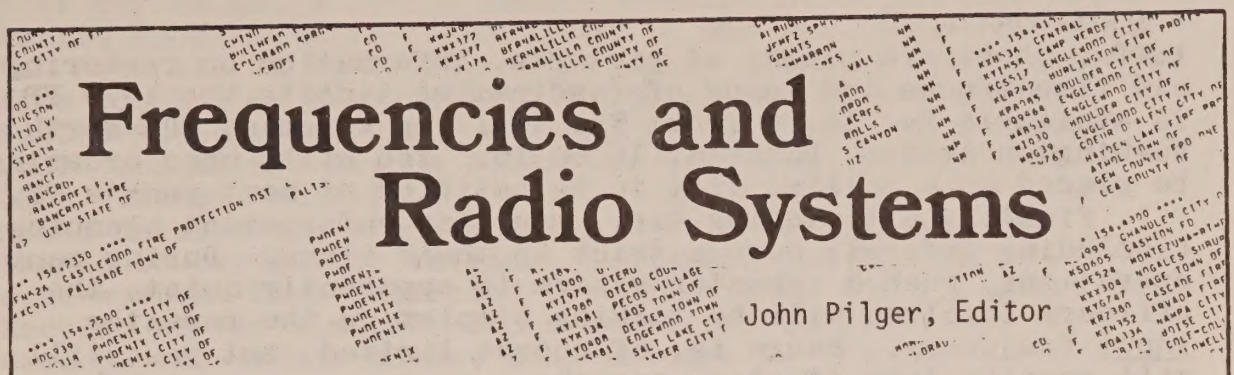
The Intelligent Scanner Re-visited

Several months ago, after recently getting a PET computer, I proposed the idea of interfacing a computer to a scanner to make it more versatile. There have been several responses, some favorable to my original idea, but WARREN (CA-SM-005) sent me a letter suggesting an interesting alternative. I had given his idea just a bit of thought in the past, but now that he has mentioned it, it bears a little discussion. To summarize his proposal, Warren would like to see a computer interfaced to a scanner in such a way so as to decode the ASCII coded transmissions used by various agencies for their teleprinter traffic. In fact, since the computer would simply be decoding the audio from the scanner, it could just as easily be interfaced to a conventional tape recorder and then decoded whenever it was convenient. Since many computers use an audio interface to a cassette tape recorder to store and load programs, it would seem to be a relatively simple task to do the interfacing in through this port. In fact, the only clever part which needs to be done is the generation of the software--the program itself which will decode the ASCII message and display it on the CRT of the computer. I have not been able to spend enough time with my computer to delve into this, but I would like to know if any of the computer buffs in the RCMA have given any effort to this. Drop me a line and let me know, and I'll be glad to act as a clearinghouse for all of the information. Maybe as a group we can come up with a workable solution.

New Equipment/Equipment Reviews

There has been some input from the membership at large which feels that the RCMA could be of some assistance in letting everyone know, through the Newsletter, what types of equipment are available, where it can be obtained, etc. While I agree to a point, there is no reason why we should try to duplicate the information which may be available from other established sources. Therefore, in some cases, instead of printing actual lists of equipment, we will simply refer you to other publications which have New Products columns, such as Popular Electronics, etc. and let you get the data from there. Of course, in those cases where the manufacturer lets the RCMA know about these products before a formal press release is ready, and they have no objections, we of course will be very happy to get the scoop to you first.

I also want to solicit members who have written letters to the manufacturers of their scanner, no matter who they are or what the problem was, to drop a copy of their letter to us here at the RCMA. In this manner, we will be able to form an accurate assessment of what the scanner-buying public feels about the radios which are available, and we may be able to provide a valuable form of feedback both to and from the manufacturers of these products.



Frequencies and Radio Systems

John Pilger, Editor

This column is for reporting two-way communications frequencies above 30 MHz EXCEPT those belonging in special interest columns such as Aircraft, Low Band Skip, Military, Federal Gov't., Satellites, etc. Members are also encouraged to submit info about radio codes, dispatch areas, unit numbering systems, overall radio system details, repeater locations, point-to-point links, newspaper and magazine clippings and questions consistent with the subject matter of the column.

Before we dive right in to this month's F & RS column, I would like to introduce myself. While I am now living at Fort Meade, Maryland, I am a native Southern Californian. Having worked both as a photojournalist and emergency medical technician in the Long Beach (CA) area, I have been involved in monitoring since 1963. My own monitoring is done on several radios: Bearcat 250, Regency Whammo, two Regency six-channel units, and a couple of four-channel Radio Shack scanners. In addition, I have a URR/35 uhf aircraft radio and a Kenwood R-300 HF receiver. My monitoring interests are primarily in the areas of fire/medical/news media/military/ and U.S. Government.

As you have read in the Newsletter, we are trying something new: a regional editorship program. It should have the benefit of producing a lot more frequency and system information for everyone...but only if <u>everyone</u> contributes. Each month you will be able to see which (if any) regional editorships are open. If you live in one of the open areas, please consider acting as an editor. If you can't spare the time, then at least send us data for publication. As F & RS editor, I would like to see a lot of system information, including lists of radio codes which are unique to a given agency or region. Depending upon response, these will either be published or made available separately. Our plans, however, are for the F & RS information to occupy a large percentage of the Newsletter, so whatever you send, once it passes through your regional editor, will probably be used. Don't despair, however, if it doesn't appear in the very next issue; sometimes it takes time to sort out the data and get it ready for printing.

If you are sending F & RS data, please remember to send it to the <u>regional</u> editor for your area. If anyone wishes to contact me directly, feel free to drop me a note at POBox 109, Fort Meade, MD 20755, or call (301) 621-9544. Remember, though, F & RS submissions must first go to your regional editor.

For those RCMA members who are especially fond of fire department communications, I would like to point out the 25th anniversary edition of "The Visiting Fireman" which is due off the press right now. The VF, as it is known, contains, for the monitor, fire department frequency information on many larger departments in the country. Since the VF is aimed at fire

F & R S (continued)
buffs, there are plenty of pictures, information on restoring old fire trucks and loads of fascinating tidbits.The 1979 VF is available for $6.00 from: The Visiting Fireman, 203 North Washington Avenue, Batavia, IL 60510. You will, upon ordering, be placed on a mailing list to be notified of next year's VF.

Finally, a listening tip: many law enforcement agencies (including federal) have a trick up their sleve. During many operations, when a repeater system is apparently quiet, the officers involved will be talking simplex on the repeater input frequency. Range is, of course, limited, but you still will receive them if close enough.

NOTICE: REGIONAL FREQUENCY AND RADIO SYSTEMS EDITORS NEEDED!

Would you like to be a Regional Frequency Editor? If you 1) live in a region (as defined by the state groupings below) that is in need of a Regional Editor, 2) can offer clean typewritten copy, 3) would welcome members sending frequency and radio system information directly to you, 4) enjoy working with frequencies and radio system details and then preparing a column from the information, then perhaps you should consider being a Regional "Frequencies and Radio Systems" Editor. For details write to: John Pilger, P.O. Box 109, Ft. Meade, MD 20755.

CT MA ME NH NY RI VT

REGIONAL EDITOR NEEDED!

DE MD NJ PA

Regional Editor pending but other interested members may apply just in case.

MI OH

Larry A. Smith, Regional Editor
1223 Vinsetta Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48067
(313) 398-9797 7-11 PM Eastern Time
weekdays plus all day Saturday & Sunday

Send Michigan and Ohio frequencies and radio system details or questions to Larry. His column should begin with the July issue.

IA IL IN KS KY MN MO NB ND SD WI

Mike Redman, Regional Editor
P.O. Box 1177, St. Charles, MO 63301

Greetings! Welcome to the new regional Frequencies and Radio Systems column--this one is designed to cover a large section of Central United States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. My name is Mike Redman (MO-002); I've volunteered for and been selected to edit the column for this area, and I'll be looking forward to your letters, contributions, questions, and suggestions.

F & R S -- IA IL IN KS KY MN MO NB ND SD WI (continued)

I'll try to get a little better acquainted by telling you a little about myself. I've lived in the St. Louis metropolitan Area all of my twenty-eight years and have spent the last five working as dispatcher for one of the area's largest Public-Safety agencies. I began monitoring public-safety radio about 1965 with a Realistic Patrolman portable and a 1948 vintage Motorola 2 channel "coffin-box" receiver, so named because the trunk-mounted unit resembled an old-fashioned curved-top coffin. Equipment and knowledge of the area systems have increased over the years to my present collection of ten communications receivers covering the most-used public-safety bands, nine externally mounted antennae, and a whole-house amplified monitoring system. I have been active in Citizens Band emergency monitoring, the area Severe Weather Observers' Radio Net, and APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communications Officers), Missouri Chapter. My specialties are Police, Fire, and EMS (Emergency Medical Service) radio systems as well as sources of weather information.

The idea behind this regional column is to exchange system details and frequency usage for the benefit of others in the region, members across the country planning travel into the region, and those who might hear one of our stations on skip. So, I want to solicit contributions from all of you in the region with frequency information, system details, questions, suggestions, and all of you outside the region who would like information about this area. Don't worry if the frequencies you submit are listed in Police Call, for you may be able to detail their usage through personal listening. And, if you don't have anything to contribute just yet, write anyway; let us know how you like the column with your suggestions and ideas. Deadline will be the 28th of the month, but volume may prevent your contribution from being printed for 2 of 3 months. Please be patient!

For now, please submit your frequency contributions in the standard RCMA format, with a few additions: How information was learned (listening, friend who is a fireman, etc.), and type of receiver used. If you don't have any forms handy, just jot down the required information on a piece of paper and send it on in. And of course, frequencies are welcomed from most anything on radio, from Fred's Taxi Service to complex state police repeater networks. I'll be looking forward to your correspondence, and to getting to know as many of you by mail as I can in the months ahead. And, of course, I'll do my best to give you a column each month that you'll really look forward to reading.

As John Arendt (IL-012) says, "Happy Monitoring!"

DC FL GA NC SC VA WV AL AR LA MS OK TN TX

RCMA Regional Editor
P.O. Box 270294, Tampa, FL 33688

I would like to start off by explaining why I wish to remain anonymous. Both my wife and myself have jobs involving communications. Neither of our employers might like to see me involved in spreading information about

monitoring. Rather than test them thru the off chance of them seeing an RCMA newsletter, I think it best to remain out of view.

I would like to encourage members to communicate with each other thru this column, but please do think about the items you send in. We monitor for pleasure, but we should not spread about sensitive information unless we are sure it will not be misused. Many federal police as well as some local police frequencies probably should not be published. This type of information in the wrong hands could easily cost lives.

I intend as I get frequencies from members to establish a file so that members can send a self addressed stamped envelope to obtain information. I plan to file by location of the agency (city or county) and cross index it with a file by callsigns and a file by frequency. If anyone can suggest other or better ways, please do. It will probably go on index cards. At the present, I can supply good information on the Tampa-Hillsborough county area in Florida along with some information on the surrounding areas. Bill Godby(Fl 9) has provided some help on the Palm Beach area and Bill Wall (Al 2) has sent a great deal from Alabama. Hopefully there will have been enough room to get these items into this issue.

If something doesn't get in one month, don't lose hope, sometimes there are going to be space problems and time problems. I will get everything in as quickly as possible though, so keep writing in. I would like to urge you to use the special report forms whenever possible, they make things easier. Also, let me know whether you have personally verified the info or not. I also like to know when I screw up, I will make mistakes, so please keep checking on me!

Only one letter this first month, from Bill Godbey (Fl-9). He writes, "Imagine my surprise after programing a 38mhz frequency listed in a popular frequency list as being assigned to the FBI/Army and discovering it being used by the Palm Beach County Dept. of Animal Regulation. (KTR746) Oh well!" I Think I know the list in question and have to admit to only slightly better results!

Incidentally Bill, if you get a chance, try the following frequencies: Palm Beach Post 173.275, Miami Herald 173.225, Miami News 452.975, Miami Herald 453.000. These are some unverified listings I have, and would appreciate finding out if they are good. Thanks for the letter.

Please correspond if you have any comments, gripes, or contributions. I will do my best to make this space what the membership wants.

I thought I would talk about nespaper operations in the Tampa, Fla. area this month. We have a number of dailys which can provide interesting listening. As many of you probably know, there are only 4 VHF Hi channels allocated to newspapers. These are, 173.225, 173.275, 173.325, 173.375. There are 2 UHF channels, 452.975 and 453.000. There are some papers using business or industrial channels, but these are the exception.

The Tampa Tribune and Tampa Times (jointly owned by Media General in Richmond) operate on 173.375. They use Motorola 5 watt portables for all of their mobile operations. Without a major antenna, you will only hear the base. The city desks of both papers, photo dept., and security can be easily heard. 220,000 circulation

The nearby St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent (also jointly owned) tend to be more active than the Tribune. They have a repeater on 452.975 so you can hear the mobiles as well as the base. You will hear their city desks, photo dept., security, and dispatch driver who pick up advertising material from stores. They also have radios for their Clearwater Bureau. They are currently buying Motorola MX portables for their newspeople. These are called the "Cadillac" ofportables. They are 6 watts handheld, have a built in pager and can be plugged into a car console which not only recharges the portable, but ampliflies it to 100 watts. They cost about $3,500. 250,000 circulation

The Clearwater Sun, a smaller paper, uses its radios for business purposes mainly, although the photo dept. does have radios. They are not very active, however. They have 25 watt mobiles, so they don't go very far either. Listen on 173.225. 50,000 circulation (estimate)

The Sarasota HeraldTribune and Sarasota Journal another joint operation is larger than Clearwater. They mainly use their radios for business, though, so the listening is apt to be dull. They do have a second base in Bradenton. They have very weak mobiles, Johnson and Motorola at last word. They have been toying with going UHF for several years, but nothing definite as yet. They are at 173.275. 90,000 circ.

The Bradenton Herald is supposed to be on 173.325, but I have not verified this. It is a very small paper. I can verify that both the Orlando Sentinal and the Fort Lauderdale News operate on 173.375. They both should have active news dept. to provide good listening. They each have about 200,000 circulation.

I can probably provide the frequency of any paper in Florida, or at least make a good guess if anyone needs to know. Remember that the smaller the paper, the less likely it will be good to listen to. Smaller papers get radios to deliver replacement papers, ad copy and amuse the publisher. News usually has a low priority and often newspeople don't seem to realize the value of communications.

Next month, space available, will talk about TV in my area.

ALABAMA

FD	Birmingham	Dispatch		KIA580	BM	154.190
PD	Birmingham	Dispatch central	1	KSQ471	R	460.300
PD	Birmingham	Dispatch east	2		R	460.175
PD	Birmingham	Dispatch west	3		R	460.475
PD	Birmingham	Administrative	4		R	460.375
PD	Birmingham	Detective		KIB664	R	156.210
AMB	Birmingham	Hank's Amb Svc.	1	KUX361	BM	155.235
AMB	Birmingham	A&A Amb Service	1	KGX986	BM	155.220
TV	Birmingham	WBRC TV News			R	450.650
TV	Birmingham	WAPI TV News			BM	153.290
AMFM	Birmingham	WERC Radio News			R	455.050
AMFM	Birmingham	WSGN Radio News			BM	161.760
AMFM	Birmingham	WVOK Radio News			BM	161.700
SD	Jefferson Ct.	Dispatch patrol		KIB627	BM	45.90
SD	Jefferson CT.	Dispatch Detect.		KWO327	BM	45.74
PD	Jefferson Ct.	Civil Defense net		KGN539	R	453.300
DPS	State of Al.	Dispatch statewide			B	155.475

F & R S -- DC FL GA NC SC VA WV AL AR LA MS OK TN TX (continued)

DPS	State of AL.	Mobile statewide	M	155.445
PD		Alabama statewide	BM	155.010
SP	State of AL.	Fish and Game	R	159.465
FOR	State of Al.	Dispatch, fires	BM	159.450
FOR	State of Al.	Dispatch, fires	BM	159.435
HOSP		Hospital Emergency Ambulance Radio H.E.A.R.	BM	155.340

EDITORS NOTE: on the WERC frequency, it would be unusual for the repeater to be at at 455.050. This is generally the input. The repeater is 5mhz lower so you might want to try 450.050. Thanks for all this info Bill Wall(AL 2). Let me know if I'm any help on that repeater.

AZ CO ID MT NM NV UT WY

REGIONAL EDITOR NEEDED!

The contributor's name was lost for the following list of frequencies. This should happen less often in the future as our system becomes more efficient and more refined. We apologize and please do send in more information.

CH.	SER.	FREQ.
1.	COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPT. CH. 1	453.75
2.	COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPT. CH. 2	453.85
3.	COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPT. CH. 3	453.55
4.	COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPT. CH. 4	155.01
5.	EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE CH. 1	155.61
6.	EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE CH. 2	155.860
7.	COLORADO STATE PATROL DIV. 2 PUEBLO MOBILE	154.77
8.	COLORADO STATE PATROL BASE	154.935
9.	MOUNTAIN VALLEY AMBULANCE	463.725
10.	A-1 PARAMEDIC	462.950
11.	COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPT. CH. 1	460.625
12.	COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPT. CH. 2	460.525
13.	EL PASO COUNTY FIRE DEPT.	153.325
14.	EL PASO COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE	155.235
15.	MANITOU SPRINGS FIRE DEPT. CH. 1	155.1
16.	MANITOU SPRINGS POLICE DEPT. CH. 2&3	154.3

CA OR WA (EXCEPT 7 SOUTHERN CA COUNTIES)

REGIONAL EDITOR NEEDED!

From CHARLES (CA-SC-002):

COFD Santa Clara Co. Ca.	S.Co. Dispatch	F13		BM	154.145
" "	Santa Clara	F13		BM	154.145
" "	Gilroy Disp.	F13	KCX-961	BM	154.145
" "	Morgan Hill Disp.	F13	KRF-483	BM	154.145
" "	San Martin Disp.	F13	KLG-451	BM	154.145

COFD	Santa Clara Co. Ca.	N.Co. Dispatch	F8	KMB-884	BM	154.400
"	"	Mountain View (link to County Fire Dept.)				
			F8	KAT-234	BB	154.400
"	"	Los Altos Disp.	F8	KMB-314	BM	154.400
"	"	Stanford University	F8	KMD-419	BM	154.400
COFD	Santa Clara Co.Ca.	Santa Clara Co. Disp.	F2	KMB-884	B	154.250
"	"	Cupertino Disp.	F2	KCI-681	BM	154.250
"	"	Milpitas Disp.	F2	KMG-456	BM	154.250
"	"	Los Gatos Disp.	F2	KRV-308	BM	154.250
"	"	Saratoga Disp.	F2	KSO-875	BM	154.250
COFD	Santa Clara Co. Ca.	Mutual Aid	F14	"White"	BM	154.280

From MICHAEL (CA-OR-005):
Humboldt County, CA SO has a new communications center with modern (at least a little more modern than the old system) equipment. They may be taking advantage of their license to operate on the regional California Law Enforcement Radio System (CLERS) channel (155.700 MHz Repeater - 154.815 MHz Control, the old State Law Net #5). Then they will have direct communications with adjacent county and state law enforcement dispatchers.

Redding, CA Fire Department has a new communications console. The dispatch is done on one of the two VHF channels (154.400 MHz) with channels for mutual aid with the County Fire (154.430 MHz), statewide "White" (154.280 MHz), fire inter-system (154.160 MHz & 154.220 MHz) and monitoring capability on the PD and other local systems.

From Jack (CA-SL-001)

FOR	San Luis Obispo Ca.	C.D.F.local channel		151.325
FOR	"	C.D.F.district net		151.445
SPS	Pismo Beach Ca.	Pismo Beach State Park	B	44.960
"	"	"	M	44.640
SPS	Morro Bay Ca.	Morro Bay State Park	B	44.960
"	"	"	M	44.640
*COFD	San Luis Obispo Ca.	S.L.O. Co. Fire Mutual aid		158.280
SP	"	State Special Svc.		453.675
"	"	State Mutual Assist		154.920
"	"	Calif. Mens Colony		39.100
HOSP	Atascadero Ca.	Atascadero State Hospital		153.755

In the January Newsletter, page 11, the frequency for the San Luis Obispo County Fire Mutual Aid should have read 158.280, not 154.280. The Pismo Beach FD changed to 154.145 MHz. Also, the San Luis Obispo SO has a new frequency. Their White channel is now 460.025 which is the CLEMARS channel also.

Southern CA

COUNTIES OF IMPERIAL, LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO, SAN DIEGO & VENTURA

REGIONAL EDITOR NEEDED!

Due to the high density of radio traffic and RCMA members in these seven counties a separate Regional Editor is warranted.

The idea of a "Southern CA" region is new. Southern California members who may not have had an interest in becoming the "CA OR WA" regional editor may now have an interest in this more limited but very important geographic area. With all the members in Southern California, some of whom are very sharp and knowledgeable about Southern California frequencies and radio

systems, we probably will have several applicants, which is good. If anyone is interested, he should contact John Pilger, P.O. Box 109, Ft. Meade, MD 20755, since he has now assumed the duty of recruitment and selection of regional editors.

To make his selection task easier, please give details of your monitoring background, something about yourself, your employment and education. Please send a typewritten letter so that he may evaluate your typing skills and typewritter.

Until a Southern CA regional editor is selected you can send your Southern CA frequencies and radio system details to: RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514. Could I ask that you restrain yourselves and just send in the most pertinent information for now. When a regular regional editor is selected then send in all the info you want. Thanks. IBR

From Dave (CA-OR-102)

Tow	Anaheim	Ca	AAA Dispatcher	KCO-762		150.950
Taxi	"	"	Yellow Cab. Disp.			452.150
"	"	"	" Cars			457.150
PD	Orange	Ca	The City Shopping Center	KFS-732	R	463.625

From MICHAEL (CA-OR-005):

LAPD's Project ECCCS (Emergency Command and Control Communications System, pronounced "X") is projected to have its radio sub-system completed by 1981 (voice switch-over to UHF "T-Band" only). The computer interface should be in shortly thereafter. This will include mobile data terminals operating on five old VHF mobile frequencies for transmit and the five present VHF dispatch frequencies for receive (utilizing the same radios in the cars now). Everything should be operational in the entire system by then, "officially". Unofficially, they are working through piles of bureaucratic red tape, lack of available city funds, and equipment shortcomings and they hope to (read "have to") be ready for the MASSIVE security problem in 1984 with the Summer Olympics.

From RON (CA-LA-060):

Any member who would like to exchange L.A.S.O. unit numbering and radio designations for administrative and detectives, I have some information on this. Ron Murray, 18935 Sherman Way #15, Reseda, CA 91335.

On 4-20-79 beginning approx. 1030 hrs., I monitored the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Office testing a digital message system on frequency "E" 39.72. The units involved in the test, which lasted more than an hour, were "Frank 4 Lincoln" and "Frank 4 Adam" probably from LASO Communications Bureau. I was also able to monitor them discussing the testing on 470.7875. There was quite a bit of discussion about "full screen messages". Any members have any other additional info?

(Editor's note: When a member seeks information and another member has it, it is of greater service to other members if the answer is sent to the Newsletter rather than to the individual asking the question. This way it can be published and all can benefit.)

From O. WAYNE MARTIN (CA-LA-082):

I would like help in obtaining information on L.A. County Fire Department and Pomona Police and Fire:

-L.A. County Fire information codes used (999, Code R, etc.), equipment location, camps and equipment.
-Pomona Police codes used (5150, King, Sam, etc.).
-Pomona Fire equipment at each station, codes used.
- Also, frequencies used at Long Beach Grand Prix and who and why used.

Thank you.

(Editor's Note: "5150" is sometimes used seriously and sometimes not

F & R S -- Southern CA (continued)

so seriously by officers. By coincidence the next item from Jeff was also sent in and gives an explanation of 5150.---If any member wishes to respond to the above request for information, he can contact CA-LA-082 directly (see #4, inside front cover) and/or he may send the information to the Newsletter to be printed. Since others may be interested in the same information, the latter is encouraged.)

From JEFF (CA-OR-012):

Often an officer will refer to patient as a "5150" (in California). This stands for bill number 5150, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which is as follows (from the California Health and Safety Code):

§5150. Dangerous or gravely disabled person; taking into custody; application.

When any person, as a result of a mental disorder, is a danger to others, or to himself, or gravely disabled, a peace officer, member of the attending staff, as defined by regulation, of an evaluation facility designated by the county, or other professional person designated by the county may, upon reasonable cause, take, or cause to be taken, the person into custody and place him in a facility designated by the county and approved by the State Department of Mental Hygiene as a facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation.

Such facility shall require an application in writing stating the circumstances under which the person's condition was called to the attention of the officer, member of the attending staff, or professional person, and stating that the officer, member of the attending staff, or professional person believes as a result of his personal observations that the person is, as a result of mental disorder, a danger to others, or to himself, or gravely disabled.

From ROBERT (CA-OR-026): Cal State Northridge Campus Police operate on 153.74 MHz. Units are designated as follows --- 17VS1 through 17VS19 are patrol and 17VS20 through 17VS99 are supervisors. These units also can operate on LAPD Base D, F-23, TAC 1 and TAC 2. 17WT1 through 17WT99 are traffic control units and operate only on 153.74.

Also, I would like to obtain a complete list of all frequencies used by L.A. City and County Local Government. This includes signal, sewer, road, flood maintenance, etc. (Editor's note: A copy for the Newsletter would be appreciated should anyone have this info.)

From ROBERT (CAN-009): During the summer (probably August) I might be going down to Los Angeles. By then I hope to have my BC-250. From past issues of the RCMA Newsletter I've gotten frequencies for LAPD and CHP, but I would like to have channels for the LA COFD, frequencies, usage, etc. Also, how about the LA COSO?

(Editor's response: Several members have been asking about Southern California frequencies. Southern California monitor listeners are very fortunate to have available, "Police Call, Southern California Edition" since it gives a great deal of information not found elsewhere. Members in other areas who have an interest in this publication should write to: California Radio Communications Co., Box 35102, Los Angeles, CA 90035. The price is $5.50 if you buy it in a store but by mail it could be more to cover postage and handling. It might be best to write first to obtain the price postpaid. It would no doubt expedite matters to include an SASE for reply. IBR)

CANADA

Rory McEvoy, Regional Editor
12 Casslegrove Blvd., Unit 9
Don Mills, Ontario M3A 1K8

Rory's column will begin with the July or August Newsletter. Canadian members are urged to support the Canadian Regional Column by sending in information and questions. This may very well serve to encourage more Canadian monitor listeners to join RCMA.

F & R S -- CANADA (continued)

Do any Canadian members have any good ideas on how to bring RCMA to the attention of other Canadian monitor radio listeners who aren't RCMA members? Newspaper ads in metropolitan areas might be one way and putting RCMA information and applications in radio stores that are willing could be another. What radio publications found in Canada would reach the most monitor listeners? If anyone has any good RCMA promotional ideas for Canada, please write (RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514).

From RUSSELL (CAN-007):

BUS	EDMONTON, ALTA	EDMONTON TRANSIT	1	B	434.4125
NEWS	"	RADIO CHQT	1	B	450.6375
PD	"	CITY POLICE XJF32	4	M	468.100
TEL	"	EDMONTON MOBILE TELEPHONE	2	M	173.945
PD	"	CITY POLICE	3	M	463.245
PWR	"	EDMONTON POWER	2	M	155.190
WTR	"	WATER & SANITATION	2	M	
"	"	"	1	M	
AMB	"	SMITHS AMBULANCE	1	B	158.760
PWR	"	EDMONTON POWER	1	B	463.350
TV	"	CERN TV CHANNEL 3	3	B	44.350
AMB	"	SMITHS AMBULANCE	1	M	157.830
"	"	"	3	M	157.860
"	"	"	2	M	157.920
NEWS	"	RADIO CJCA	1	B	450.9125
PD	"	CITY POLICE	3	M	453.925
"	"	"	3	M	467.275
"	"	"	2	M	483.675
"	"	"	1	M	483.500
"	"	"	1	M	483.510
"	"	"	2	M	483.515
"	"	"	2	M	483.150
"	"	"	1	M	483.415

The RCMA NEWSLETTER is mailed by Bulk Rate (up to three ounces for 8.4¢ each) but Canada does not honor U.S. Bulk Rate postage. Newsletters sent to Canada require First Class Postage of 28¢ (two ounces maximum). Canadian members should have been paying higher annual dues all along to cover the difference in postage. In all fairness, the proper Canadian annual dues should be $10.35 per year. This comes at a bad time since we are encouraging new Canadian members. The Board Members decided to make the Canadian increase effective September 1st for promotional reasons. Alert non-member Canadian monitor listeners to join now at the $8.00 rate.

Aircraft

Wayne Guerrini, Editor

Send private, commercial, firefighting and law enforcement aircraft frequencies of interest in the 108-136 MHz range and frequencies in other bands associated with airports and aircraft plus questions, articles, and tips related to aircraft monitoring to: P.O. Box 12434, Oklahoma City, OK 73157, (405) 943-2078. Please send all military aircraft frequencies and info to the "MILITARY" column.

WHO I AM

I am Wayne Guerrini. I am 26 years old, and have lived in Oklahoma City for about 2 years. I was raised in San Diego for 20 years, and San Diego is where I call home. I attended school at San Diego State University. In 1975, I went to work for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an enroute Computer Programmer, at the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center, located in Palmdale, California. About 2 years ago, I was offered a job at the FAA Aeronautical Center, located in Oklahoma City. I was part of an effort known as AMIS (Aircraft Management Information Systems). Which is an online teleprocessing system the FAA utilizes to manage its own fleet of aircraft.

In September of last year, I joined the recently formed RTF (Radar Training Facility) Software Team as a Computer Specialist. I have worked with various types of computers Including IBM 360's and 370's as well as NCR Century series, and some CDC equipment. Currently I am undergoing training on DEC PDP mini-computers. I am also responsble for a Varian 620F-100 mini.

Some of my interests (in addition to scanning) are: Photography, electronics, and computers. Recently, I took the test for amateur radio. I passed my 5 wpm code test for technician class but failed the written exam. I am currently waiting to get my novice license from the FCC. So I am K5NCY (No call yet). I am also actively involved in my church here in Oklahoma City, Calvary Chapel, as the Film person. I have two people I correspond with regularly, Guy Kroger (IA-002), and my best friend, Dave Sparks, (CA-R12), who I blame for this job.

I have a sister, Cindy, who currently is working for the telephone company (aka Ma Bell) as a telephone service representative She is also known as Fresno-1 to all RCMA type people.

Please address any comments (good or bad) about this column to the address listed above. Remember, this is your newsletter. I thank those who have taken the time to write (Ken, TX-003, and Bill, FL-009, and Mike, MO-002) for submitting articles. Thanks.

CORRESPONDENCE

"Guy (IA-002) the FCC allocation for airline home office frequencies is from 460.650 - 460.874 Mhz. This allocation is not strictly adhered to in the Miami and West Palm Beach, Florida areas. Some home office frequencies are somewhat higher. Easterm utilizes frequencies in the VHF-HI spectrum in the Fort Lauderdale area." from Bill Godbey (FL-009)

"HURRICANE WATCH...reported by not confirmed NOAA Hurricane Researh Miami, Florida on 123.050." from Bill Godbey (FL-009)".

Editors note: The National Severe Studies Laboratory, located in Norman, Oklahoma (Near the University of Oklahoma)

Aircraft (continued)

is using 173.100 as a repeater frequency. They are also using 164.500 for transmitting their RADAR advisories. Thèse frequencies are usually active only during times of severe weather in Oklahoma, especially during Tornado watches and warnings.

Also from Bill Godbey (FL-009)..."Freeport, Bahamas Approach Control on 126.500, and Nassau Tower on 119.500".

From Mike (MO-002)...New Air Ambulance Begins Operation

"The MARC Ambulance resently began operation here in St. Louis. MARC stands for Medical Air Rescue Corps, and the ambulance uses radio identification of MARC-1. The program is sponsored by Firmen Desloge, or St. Louis University Hospital (KVI-599), home base of the operation. The unit operates on three frequencies: 155.475, 155.34, and one other, probably 155.220. Operating range is 100 miles in all directions from St. Louis, the area the ambulance will serve.

This 24 hour ambulance service employs a Sikorsky S-55, with a cruising speed of about 100 miles per hour, with a range of 400 miles before refueling. Three stretcher patients can be carried simultaneously. The unit is staffed by Vietnam-veteran pilots and a staff of registered nurses, and medical equipment on board includes electrocardiographs, oxygen, defibrillators, splinting equipment, and a full range of emergency drugs and dressings. The unit is available to all area law enforcement officials, hospitals, physicians, industry, and any other public health and safety agencies within 100 miles of St. Louis.

Incidentally, I understand the cost to the patient will be $600 an hour."

The following information was sent to Ken, TX-003 by the Department of the Army, Headquarters, 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in response to an inquiry.

"I will try to give you an overview of the MAST program. MAST is an acronym standing for the Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic and is an outgrowth of several studies by the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare which gave consideration to the utilization of military helicopters and service paramedical personnel in responding to civilian medical emergencies. Early in 1970, MAST was initiated here in the San Antonio area as a test project. Results of the test proved so worthwhile that the pilot program was approved here in San Antonio and the 507th Medical Company became the first MAST unit. Today there are 25 different MAST units located at every major Army installation. Here in Texas there are also MAST units in El Paso, Houston, and Killeen. The Air Force also has five MAST units scattered throughout the United States. MAST units are basically Army air ambulance units that during peace time practice their skills and training in support of urgent life saving requests in an area within 100 nm radius of the installation where they are located. This area of operations can be extended to an area of 150 nm. MAST missions include patient evacuation directly from accident scenes as well as inter-hosptial transfers of patients from rural or community hospitals which lack the necessarry equipment and personnel to treat seriously ill or injured patients. This inter-hospital transfer can include the transportation of blood, vital organs and special medical equipment. Most MAST units have two aircraftcommitted each day to the support of the program. Each aircraft has a four man crew and is capable of carrying three litter patients and four ambulatory. Medical equipment carried on board is essentially the same as carried by your local EMS ambulances. Being helicopters we or course carry some other items in addition, such as a rescue hoist which allows us to make patient pickups over terrain where

Aircraft (continued)
a landing would not otherwise be possible. MAST missions can only be requested by a doctor, hosptial administrator, law enforcement officer, or local fire department/EMS dispatchers. Their decision to request a MAST mission is based on their judgement as to wheter a MAST helicopter would be the fastest most practical means of evacuating a patient to San Antonio's major hospitals. MAST is only an interim supplement or backup to local EMS services and cannot in anyway be in direct competition with private or commercial enterprises involved in evacuating patients. Furthermore, MAST may be discontinued at any time due to military contingencies."

Sincerely,
Bruce G. Furbish, CPT, MSC
Operations Officer

MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONFIRMED MAST FREQUENCIES ARE URGED TO SEND THEM TO THIS COLUMN.

FAA HAPPENINGS

NTSB RULES ON SAN DIEGO CRASH: PILOTS AND FAA CITED

"The National Transportation Safety Board has ruled that the probable cause of the mid-air collision in San Diego last September 25, between a PSA 727 and a Cessna 172 was the faulure of the flight crew to keep the other aircraft in sight while making a visual approach and its failure to inform the control tower that it had lost sight of the other aircraft. It is listed as a contributing factor the air traffic control procedures in effect at the time which allowed the controller to use visual flight rules to seperate aircraft on potentially conflicting courses when lateral and horizontal seperation was available.

The vote on the probable cause of the accident, in which 144 people were killed, was three to one with Board Member Francis H. McAdams casting the dissenting vote and saying that he would file a dissenting opinion. McAdams said he believed more of the blame for the accident should have been placed in the pilots of the 172 for not following their assigned course and on the controllers and the air traffic control system. He also wanted to include the alleged shortcomings in the air traffic control system as part of the probable cause instead of listing them as contributing factors."

(From FAA INTERCOM April 25, 1979)

TRSA OPERATIONAL AT SAN DIEGO

"The Terminal Radar Service Area (TRSA) at San Diego area went into operation on April 19. San Diego's Lindberge field is one of the 80 locations scheduled for TRSAs as part of the agency's (SIC) safety enhancment program announced after the midair collision there last September. The San Diego TRSA also is scheduled for upgrading to a terminal control area (TCA) in the fall. In a TRSA, radar vectoring, sequencing and aircraft separation are provided on a full-time basis for all instfument flight rules (IFR) traffic and all participating visual flight rules (VFR) aircraft. In a TCA, these services are mandatory for all IFR and VFR traffic."

(From FAA INTERCOM May 2, 1979)

RTF BEHIND SCHEDULE

The new RTF (Radar Training Facility) building, schedulded for completion April 30, 1979 is currently behind schedule. The contractor is subject to a $750 a day fine for not having the building completed. RTF will be used as a radar simulation laboratory to help provide radar training to developmental enroute/terminal air traffic controllers. LOGICON, INC. of San Diego, is responsible for developing the computer software (programs) necessary to run the Laboratory. The building will house 2 terminal and 2 enroute labs. Fourteen computers are necessarry for its operation. (4 PDP 11/60's and 10 PDP 11/34's)

MONITORING & THE LAW

Bob McGovern, Editor

Send all articles, references, copies of monitoring laws and questions pertaining to the legal aspects of monitor radio listening to: RCMA, P.O. Box 3152, West Palm Beach, FL 33402.

This is the start of a new column for our newsletter and hopefully it will be a big success, in that, we can accomplish the following goals.

(1) The presentation and discussion of monitor laws including state statutes, county and city ordinances, and court cases.

(2) A forum which will permit members to ask questions concerning monitor laws. Ask any question relating to this column, as there is no such thing as a stupid question.

(3) Answers to the above questions. This editor will attempt to answer your questions, and if an answer cannot be provided, fellow members will be asked to furnish any information that will answer the questions.

(4) The presentation of different member viewpoints concerning existing and proposed monitor laws. Your comments are encouraged. Simply state what you think.

(5) The drafting of acceptable monitor laws to replace those that exist. If it is felt that a need does exist for monitor laws, let's draft something that is acceptable to us, and encourage legislative bodies to amend their existing laws.

As for this editor, I became interested in SW radio in the early 60's and started monitoring in 1970. Also, I have attended law school and am currently employed in the criminal justice system as a parole and probation officer. Researching monitor laws and cases became a favorite activity of mine in 1975, and it still occupies some of my time.

Remember, this is your column, not just the editor's; so the only way we can achieve anything is if you contribute questions, answers, comments, and suggestions. Material that is received will be printed, however, it may take some time for a question or comment to appear in the newsletter.

Anyway, send in questions, comments, monitor laws, case material, newspaper and magazine articles concerning the topic, and any other relevant material. Address your mail to Bob McGovern, RCMA, POB 3152, West Palm Beach, FL 33402.

Remember, it's all up to YOU. So until next month, happy listening!

★ MILITARY ★

Robert B. Grove, Editor

Send all ARMY, NAVY, COAST GUARD, MARINE and AIR FORCE (including military aircraft) frequencies, radio system details and related questions to: Robert B. Grove, Route 1-Box 156, Brasstown, NC 28902. Sensitive military frequencies will not be published.

The Department of Defense is the world's largest user of the radio spectrum. For that reason, we have decided, at least initially, to devote a column to this service alone. While allocations to DOD begin at extremely low frequencies (76 hertz for Project Seafarer!), we will confine our column to the more short-ranged activities found at the VHF and UHF portions of the spectrum. Other ranges may be included if warranted by member interest.

Military agencies may, at their discretion, use virtually any portion of the spectrum. While frequency coordination with the FCC is considered protocol, agencies occasionally just plop onto a quiet spot and start talking! This is especially true of low band, where older communications equipment abounds, and National Guard units are stationed all over the country. Headquarters commanders are provided with a list of frequencies from which they may choose. Often, these allocations may be in the middle of a group of FCC allocated public service frequencies. A case in point is the Navy's USS Nimitz, who recently used 33.8 MHz for their shore patrol operations while docked at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Officially, low band military allocations alternate with civilian assignments, usually separated by even-MHz blocks.

Military man-pack transceivers are often designed to operate with continuous FM (often wideband) coverage from 30-76 MHz. This allows for communications in Europe, where the TV channel allocations are different from our 54-88 MHz (channels 2 through 6). In fact, even in the U.S., 72-76 MHz is allocated to a variety of non-TV services, including business, public service, and other land mobile and portable users. 75 MHz is used nationwide for FAA outer marker aeronautical beacons, but it is also used by the U.S. Army Rangers training school in Dahlonega, GA.

The frequency ranges which will be discussed most often in this column will include: 30-50 MHz, 138-144 MHz, 148-150.8 MHz, 163-174 MHz, and 225-400 MHz.

Members are urged to forward frequency information to my address as shown above. As with the federal government category, questions and answers will appear in print each month.

From TIM (MI-005):

If anyone in the club is looking for military books of frequencies, let me know as I can help out. Give me a call or write and give me the information you are looking for. Tim Cantwell, 3049 Warrington, Sterling Heights, MI 48078, (313) 979-5950 (between 7:00 & 11:00 PM EST or EDST, whichever prevails).

FEDERAL GOV'T

Robert B. Grove, Editor

Send all non-military Federal Government frequencies, radio system details and related questions to: Robert B. Grove, Route 1-Box 156, Brasstown, NC 28902. Sensitive federal law enforcement frequencies will not be published.

It is a pleasure to be named editor of both federal and military frequencies for the RCMA. Although some members may not be aware of it, the RCMA is a highly respected organization. Manufacturers and hobbyists alike know that our organization speaks authoritatively for the communications listener. Statements made in the bulletin are considered to be well qualified. Thus, we have an obligation to make sure that everything we publish is in the best interest of the reader, and of the communications industry as well.

Until the decision is reached as to whether RCMA will discuss frequencies outside of the VHF/UHF ranges, shortwave listings will be rare unless pertinent to VHF/UHF services.

The types of frequency information which will be treated in this column will include all agencies of federal jurisdiction. No sensitive federal tactical frequencies will be published. Military frequencies will be treated in the accompanying column.

The frequency ranges which will be most commonly discussed in this column will include: 30-50 MHz, 162-174 MHz, and 406-420 MHz. Other assignments will be discussed which pertain to the subject.

For a change of pace, let's take a look at one frequency range which is virtually unknown to listeners: 216-220 MHz. This range is between channel 13 TV and the UHF aeronautical band. Most allocations officially shown are for government radio navigation purposes. No voice modulation is indicated on the unclassified IRAC microfiche. Possibly some members have additional information which might shed some more light on this interesting four Megahertz of federal spectrum.

Speculation continues as to whether any of the reserved pool frequencies in the 806-960 MHz range will be released by FCC to IRAC. At the present time, it does not appear likely, as 406-420 is far from saturated!

Members are encouraged to send federal frequency information directly to my address. Questions and answers will be presented in this column each month.

LARRY (MI-001) has obtained a list of all NOAA weather stations operating in the U.S. on 162.550, 162.400 and 162.475 MHz. He says by the fall of this year there will be around 350 stations in use which is the maximum the service has planned for operation, covering about 90% of the population. If you would like a copy of this list send a business size SASE to Larry Smith, 1223 Vinsetta Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48067.

CONTACT

A column devoted exclusively to the purpose of helping members contact other members. If you want to meet, telephone, or correspond with other members (by letter or cassette tape) in a certain geographic area or other members who have similar listening interests, this is the place to say so. Interested members will contact you directly so be sure to give your telephone number and best time to call and/or your address. Write to: RCMA, P.O. Box 4693, Riverside, CA 92514.

I would appreciate it if any members would send me tapes of various types of voice scrambler systems used in their area other than fixed code, single inversion. I will copy tapes and send back. MARK HURESKI (MI-004), 9208 Columbia, Redford, MI 48239.

I am trying to compile a list of any U.S. Gov't. frequencies in any frequency range at any location in the U.S. in an effort to show a relationship among frequency allocations, gov't. agency(s), and their area of operation. I would appreciate hearing from anyone knowing of federal gov't. frequencies in their areas including the so-call "sensitive" ones. Any additional related information is welcome. Write: BILL DEVER (AR-001), Rt. 2 Box 277, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

THIS COLUMN HAS A GREAT DEAL OF POTENTIAL
TO HELP MEMBERS GET IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.
GIVE IT A TRY!

SATELLITES

Send information about satellite frequencies which you have received with type of traffic heard, orbital data, hobby receiving equipment and antennas and questions pertaining to satellite monitoring to: RCMA, P.O. Box 4563, Riverside, CA 92514.

SPECIAL INTEREST EDITOR NEEDED!

If you are an active satellite monitoring enthusiast and want to edit and prepare a photo-ready, typewritten column on the subject each month, please write to the above address. It probably would consist of one page or less.

From JOHN (CA-LA-055): Satellites are launched from countries throughout the world and are sending both amateur and commercial communications within the VHF and UHF ranges of our scanners. How about a fellow member providing a list of frequencies. If not, I will provide a list.
(John, send your list to the Newsletter address above. IBR)

Contributor's name lost in the shuffle:

USN	"TRANSIT" (NAVSAT)		150.000
NASA	ATS-3	JACQUES COUSTEAU "CALYPSO"	149.195

LOW BAND SKIP

Mark S. Lucas
Editor

Send reception reports relating to distant stations received in the 30-50 MHz band plus any Low Band DXing tips, comments or articles to: Mark S. Lucas, 724 E. Mulberry St., Lancaster, OH 43130.

Hello again. Looks like the response is good to date. However,I must reiterate regarding the use of the format published last month. I ask that you PLEASE use it! The format is as follows:

Freq. (MHz), Callsign, "Station Location", Service, Base/Mob., Rcvr, Date Rcvd., Local Time, Your Location, Your State, RCMA Number.

I also ask you leave a space between lines when starting a new logging item. If you all follow these guidelines, this will be a great column!

Our very first DX logging comes all the way from Alaska! Philip Moldovan, 21 Signal Co., Ft. Richardson,AK 995Ø5. He states," I was greatly surprised when I was searching the VHF Low band with my Regency "Touch" scanner and received the L.A. County Sheriff's Office,CHP,and various other unidentifiable DX agencies. I use a ¼ wave VHF antenna inside my room. I am located just outside Anchorage and found signals are best between 9AM and 4:30 PM local time. I concentrate on L.A.S.O. as their signals are best. The following LASO frequencies I have received: 39.44; 39.82; 39.64; 39.14; 39.94; 39.02; 39.20; 39.76; 39.52; 39.58 and 39.08 MHz.

Different frequencies come in at different times at various strengths. There are not many busy frequencies here and skip is an interesting diversion.

I am hoping you can assist me in confirming the freqs I have heard and supply me with all LASO freqs on Low band and UHF. How long do you think LASO will use Low band?

If you can provide LASO codes and a breakdown of which freqs cover what areas and use,it would be appreciated. It would help me understand what and where I am listening to."

Philip, I can personally verify your receiving these LASO freqs,as I had the very same experience! It was an interesting winter for me here in Ohio (beats staring out at the snow!) and LASO was most interesting to hear. As for LASO area freqs, might I suggest you obtain "Police Call,Southern California Detail Edition." Write to: California Radio Communications Co., Box 35102,Los Angeles,CA 90035. It's $5.50 and there's probably additional postage on top of the regular postage,due to your unique location. Any RCMA member will find this publication interesting,if you regularly use the regular "Police Call" directories.

Next,we check in with John Arendt (IL-Ø12). He received what was believed to be a Brazilian station on 42.60 MHz on 28 January at 0955 CST. Here's what makes radio waves so fickle! He further states the local area state patrol car confirmed hearing same,but the District 5 SP at Joliet (only 18 miles southeast of John's location) could not receive it!

For those of you who doubt being able to receive a reception report from a skip station,read what John has to say. "From time to time I hear the City of Novato,Ca. PD on 39.82 MHz around 1200 CST and as late as 1530. I sent off a reception report with complete details of monitoring activity; including details of RCMA membership. I included a SASE. I also asked for a copy of their "10-Codes", as their's is quite different from those used here.

LOW BAND SKIP (continued)

I received a prompt reply from a "W.Brown" and a copy of their "10-Code." I was quite surprised to receive a reply that a "thank you" note was quickly dispatched."

That's what I call a good scanner operator! NEVER demand that your report be answered immediately! Most law agencies are way understaffed in the clerical department and at the radio rooms. You must invite them to answer, not force them. And a "thank you" note after they respond would not be "out of order" since their time is extremely valuable!

Finally,John reports that the "F2" situation has subsided since the early part of March. No more regular Californian openings on 39 MHz. There is some 33 MHz FD action with "OCD" heard on 33.70; 33.82; and 33.94 MHz. Contra Costa County,CA shows occasionally on 33.48 MHz as does the State of California Forestry Fire on 33.66 ("F2") and 33.98 MHz ("F1"). And once in a while Klamath County OR heard on 33.98 MHz. Thanks John for the excellant reports! Be sure to follow the format,and PLEASE keep it to one side of a sheet of paper!

Next,we "skip" down to the "Bikini State." BILL (FL-ØØ9) states: "Utilizing a BC-210 with a Discone DCX antenna atop a 40 ft. tower I have logged the audio portions of French TV Channel 2 on 41.25Ø MHz and British (BBC) TV Channel 1 on 41.5ØØ MHz from approx. 1300 to 1500 GMT on 10-31; 11-1/2/3/4/5/6 1978. Transmission mode was AM. Even though it's "old" news Bill,thanks a lot,and hope to hear from you again!

Now we "fly" back to RCMA's home base and to Lybrand P. Smith (CA-LA-157) who,in Torrence,CA has heard West Virginia State Police on 42.10 MHz from 0730 to 1130 (local time?). IDed stations included Moundsville,Bee Mountain,and Summers.

On 42.12 MHz he heard the State of S. Carolina State Police at 0730 to 1100 when W.Va. not broadcasting.

Lybrand observes, "Both W.Va. and S.C. dispatchers tend to be more garrulous than CHP dispatchers who tend to be more "business-like" in their transmissions,so the broadcasts are readily distinguishable by method alone.

Lybrand also has heard a Spanish speaking dispatcher on 42.12 MHz but no clues of origin. Any RCMA member help with this one? Continuing our "Signal Hunt" on 5 April Lybrand heard on 31.00 MHz a business-style base-to-mobile,some base-to-base transmission from 1200 to 1400. Calls given was KMI-164. Towns mentioned were: Macon,Ft. Valley,Dawson,Manchester, and Cordele. All located in Central Georgia. Any member have a positive ID here?

He also notes not all traffic heard on a scanner is merely routine. On 8 April he heard Olalousa and Santa Rosa County officials directing evacuation of people following an averturned freight train. However,about 0830 PST conditions changed and he was then receiving local law agencies in Rhea and Loudon Counties,Tennesee

Lybrand passed along some valuable tips for all of us.

1) Be aware what you hear in California may be a mixture of agencies broadcasting in an arc from Central Tenn. to western Fla.,with the strongest broadcast"capturing" the weaker one.

2) With two or more stations on the air at the same time it is easy to become discouraged and give up. However,stay on that freq. for at least 15 minutes and in that time period you'll only get one station.

3) A Rand McNally road atlas is invaluable. Highway numbers are invaluable identification,as are county names and town/city names referred in broadcast. Remember, Interstate Highways are numbered even East and West,and numbered odd North and South. The old "U.S." routes are numbered low in the East and North,and high in the West and South. And don't be fooled by common county names. Almost every southern state has an "Orange" County, but only Tennesee has a "Rhea" (pronounced "RAY") County.

4) It helps to have a "Police Call" for the eastern states. Local counties

LOW BAND SKIP (continued)
tend to run around 37 and 39 MHz,while state agencies run on 42 and 44 to 45 MHz,but there are not hard and fast rules in southern states.
5) Occasional time checks can help pin point the time zone. When it is 7:30 here and a time check given by a station says it is 9:30, then you know for sure that you have a Central Time Zone station.

I have to pass along Lybrand's antenna system as it in itself is quite unique! With his JIL SX-200 scanner he uses copper wire strung across the living room,jumpered to the JIL whip with alligator clips and a 50 ohm resistor. It sure does the job,Lybrand!

We check back in with John (ILL-012) with an article from the March 3rd Aurora Beacon News, "Because of freak radio interference between police in North Haven,Conn. and parts of Montana and Mexico,North Haven police want to boost their "shouting" power.

"The problem arose a few months ago when muffled dispatches from the Montana Highway Patrol in Butte,Montana began being heard on North Haven's police channel.

"Next came broadcasts in Spanish from Mexico.

"The Montana signals are often so strong that desk officers can barely hear a telephone ring,North Haven officers say.

"On the other hand,in Kalispell, Mont.,says Sgt. Dale Hanson, 'Some station in Connecticut is blasting us right out of our substations.

"The problem apparently is caused by an increase in sunspots,which effect the earth's ionisphere and cause radio transmissions to skip unusually long distances."

Finally,in my own home state of Ohio is Larry Miller (OH-002) who, like me,has experienced hearing various LA area stations on 39.44 MHz,and on several OSP freqs. If anyone in the Southern California area can confirm the usage by Southern Cal units,it would be appreciated: 39.44;42.56; 44.74; or 44.94 MHz.

Well,Larry, through some research by Iden (CA-RI-001) he states that 39.44 is used by LASO (Base "F-22"). 42.56 is CHP in the Barstow area. IDs of "Victorville"; "Barstow","Needles","29 Palms." It is also used as one of the Los Angelos CHP freqs with an ID of "South LA."

If any member can assist with 44.74 or 44.94 MHz write this column. And if you have a "skip" question an RCMA member may be able to answer,or you have the answer,write to me care of the above address. This is just one part of the RCMA "Low Band Skip" column.

To conclude this month,let me repeat. PLEASE use the format as outlined earlier,and in the May bulletin. Use only one side of a sheet of paper and triple space between different log items for clarity. Please put your membership number and name after each logging,as I may have to cut up your logging if I decide to put them in ascending frequency order.

Until next month,good listening and best of 73!

MARKETPLACE

Members may advertise, free of charge, items wanted, items for sale and items for trade that are associated with the hobby of monitor radio listening above 30 MHz. No dealer ads accepted. Send to: Larry L. Miller, 2885 Quarry Rd., Amherst, OH 44001.

FOR SALE: Lafayette Micro P-450 UHF (450-470 MHz) tunable plus two crystal positions, 12 VDC only. It is near new and in original box with manual and schematic. $50. GARY HOWARD (CA-OR-030), 241 7th St., Seal Beach, CA 90740.

MARKETPLACE (continued)

FOR SALE: AN/URR 35 receiver (225-400 MHz), AT-197 antenna, speaker, and manual. All for $119. Call RALPH STERN (CA-SD-017), (714) 488-4553.

FOR SALE: Aircraft receiver, URR-35C, 225 to 400 MHz, tuneable and crystal controlled, with manual, $75. Regency Whammo with 50 spare combs, $95. ROBERT A. COBURN (NH-003), R.F.D. 4, Tinkham Lane, Londonderry, NH 03053, (603) 432-2615.

FOR SALE: Tuneable VHF aircraft receiver, military surplus BC-639, tube type, 115 VAC operation, rack mountable, properly aligned and operational, with manual. Less speaker, antenna and coax. $75, prefer sale in Southern California so it won't have to be crated and shipped. IDEN (CA-RI-001), (714) 688-1168 before 8:30 PM.

ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICAN RADIO CLUBS

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

ANARC is a federation of the most responsible, well established radio listening clubs in North America. RCMA attained Full Member status in ANARC in 1977. For a list of the ANARC Member and Associate Member clubs send a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope with your request to the address below. For an annual subscription to the monthly "ANARC Newsletter" send $3.50 to: ANARC, 557 N. Madison Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101.

From the ANARC Newsletter:

ANARC 1979 FOCUS ON ALL ASPECTS OF RADIO LISTENING HOBBY

What do Joe Adamov, Radio Moscow's Moscow Mailbag, Rudy Espinal of Radio Clarin, Ian McFarland, Radio Canada International's DX Digest, Bob Zanotti, Swiss Radio International's Shortwave Merry-Go-Round, Stewart Spencer, Voice of America's Magazine Show, Roger Stubbe, HCJB, and other international broadcasters have in common? They will all be at the 1979 ANARC Convention, June 22, 23, 24, at the Radisson Downtown Hotel, Minneapolis. --- In addition, an exciting all-wave agenda is being scheduled with noted personalities in the radio hobby in Canada and the United States, and representatives from manufacturers and DX clubs. All ANARC clubs have been invited to have "information tables". Broadcast schedules and brochures from international stations will be available.

NEW ANARC CLUB LIST is now being compiled by Jeff White, Chairman, ANARC Public Relations Committee. It is expected to be ready for distribution at the ANARC 1979 Convention in Minneapolis.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DXERS (SCADS) TO BID ON ANARC 1980

SCADS has indicated that they will be submitting a bid for ANARC 1980. They propose to hold the convention (in July or August) on the campus of the University of California at Irvine, in Orange County, midway between Los Angeles and San Diego. It is adjacent to Newport Beach and the Pacific Ocean.

OOPS! This should have been in the front...

Recap of the May 18th General Membership Meeting in Southern California:
The meeting was held at the State of California, Department of Transportation (Cal-Trans) in downtown Los Angeles. After some club business Cal-Trans officials gave a detailed history of Cal-Trans followed by questions and answers. Then came a slide presentation and walk-through of the Cal-Trans "Operations Center".

NEW MEMBERS

CA AL 005 Edward, Livermore, 94550
CA CC 005 Robert Wells, 1365 Mt.Pisgah #16, Walnut Creek, 94596
CA LA 185 William Ell, 2831 Hermanos, Pasadena, 91107
CA LA 186 Roger Geurts, 1224 E Glenoaks Blvd #2, Glendale, 91206
CA LA 187 Daniel Lopez, 6824½ Orchard Ave, Bell, 90201
CA LA 188 Oscar, Torrance, 90502
CA LA 189 Carl Geiger, 12039½ Deana Street, El Monte, 91732
CA LA 190 George Howe, jr., 907 S Junipero Dr, Duarte, 91010
CA LA 191 Tom Hanafin, 1595 Rose Villa, Pasadena, 91106
CA RI 022 Linda Rogers, PO Box 4693, Riverside, 92514
CA SA 004 Jay Jones, 6010 Rutland Dr #118, Carmichael, 95608
CA SC 004 Chris Veargason, 4424 Yerba Buena Ave, San Jose, 95121
CA SC 005 Mike Scorsur, 3961 Forestwood Drive, San Jose, 95121
CA SM 010 Michael Koff, 820 N Humbolt Street, San Mateo, 94401
CA VE 005 Peter Semenick, 21 Karen Place, Newbury Park, 91320
CO 002 Donald Bishop, 1225 E Platte Ave, Colorado Springs, 80909
CT 006 Walter Boas, 62 Bridge Street, New Milford, 06776
FL 012 Robert Wyman, 8920 SW 170 Street, Maimi, 33157
IL 025 R.L., St. Charles, 60174
MA 010 Paul Kinnaly, jr., 77 Booth Road, Dedham, 02026
MD 009 Steven Hatchett, 1931 Steven Drive, Edgewood, 21040
ME 004 Bruce Chituck, 11 Pleasent Street, Topsham, 04086
MI 010 Randall Roche, 54023 Franklin Dr, Utica, 48087
MI 011 Larry Brown, 3216 Berent Street, Burton, 48529
MN 003 James Schnoor, RR #1 Box 37, Moose Lake, 55767
NY 029 Ted Howley, PO Box 254, Pleasant Valley, 12569
OH 008 Harold Ringgenberg, 11495 Village Brooke Ct #618,Cincinnati
OR 009 Lyle, Portland, 97201
PA 014 Dan Carter, 2829 7th street, Lower Burrell, 15068
PA 015 William Jones, 102 W Balph Ave, New Castle, 16101
PA 016 Matt Peskin, 32 Rosedale Road, Philadelphia, 19151
SC 003 Decatur Beckman, 111 Broad Street, Georgetown, 29440
SC 004 Rt Rev Richard Acker, 6417 N Trenholm Road, Columbia 29206

As of 5/15/79, RCMA has 670 members in 44 states and 4 foreign countries.

ALABAMA 3
ALASKA 1
ARIZONA 5
ARKANSAS 1
CALIFORNIA ..411
COLORADO 4
CONNECTICUT ...6
DELAWARE 3
FLORIDA 12
GEORGIA 3
IDAHO 2
ILLINOIS 25
INDIANA 9
IOWA 6
KANSAS 2
KENTUCKY 1
LOUISIANA 2
MAINE 4
MARYLAND 9
MASSACHUSETTS ..10
MICHIGAN 11
MINNESOTA 3
MISSISSIPPI 1
MISSOURI 4
MONTANA 1
NEBRASKA 1
NEVADA 2
NEW HAMPSHIRE ...2
NEW JERSEY 13
NEW YORK 28
NORTH CAROLINA ..5
NORTH DAKOTA 1
OHIO 8
OKLAHOMA 2
OREGON 9
PENNSYLVANIA 16
RHODE ISLAND 1
SOUTH CAROLINA 4
TENNESSEE 1
TEXAS 5
VIRGINIA 6
WASHINGTON 1
WEST VIRGINIA 1
WISCONSIN 6
ARUBA,NETH ANTILLES ...1
BERMUDA 1
CANADA 16
MEXICO 1

As of 5/15/79, RCMA has 411 members in 21 counties of California

AL .. ALAMEDA 5
CC .. CONTRA COSTA 5
FR .. FRESNO 1
KE .. KERN 1
LA .. LOS ANGELES 186
ME .. MARIN 4
OR .. ORANGE 112
RI .. RIVERSIDE 20
SA .. SACRAMENTO 4
SB .. SAN BERNARDINO ..17
SC .. SANTA CLARA 5
SD .. SAN DIEGO 19
SF .. SAN FRANCISCO 3
SH .. SHASTA 1
SJ .. SAN JOAQUIN 1
SL .. SAN LUIS OBISPO ..2
SM .. SAN MATEO 10
SO .. SOLANO 2
SR .. SANTA BARBARA 5
VE .. VENTURA 7
YO .. YOLO 1

ADDRESS CHANGES

CA LA 112 Bill Keene, PO Box 815, Bell 90201
CA LA 118 David Spray, 17 Park Ave #10-E, NY,NY 10016
CA SR 002 L.P. Benjamin, 3986 Mesa Circle #201, Lompoc, 93436
PA 011 Thomas Pecosh, Philipsburg Towers #609, Philipsburg, 16866

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